



Guide for Incoming 6th Grade JM Students and Parents

School Year 2023-2024

Joaquin Moraga and Our School

Our school is named after Joaquin Moraga, a soldier who was given a large land grant by the Mexican government in 1845. Joaquin and his cousin received 13,000 acres in what came to be called the Rheem and Moraga Valleys. Both his father and his grandfather had helped Mexico colonize California. Joaquin's father explored and is credited with naming the San Joaquin, Sacramento, Calaveras, Merced and other rivers of Northern California. His grandfather, a lieutenant in the Anza expedition which discovered San Francisco Bay by an overland route, helped establish both the San Francisco Presidio and Mission.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School opened during the 1966-67 school year but served only primary grades. The following year it became an intermediate school educating sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The school colors are blue and white; the mascot was a Marauder. In 2018, the student body voted and approved our new mascot, the Jaguar.

JMIS serves approximately 650 students. Los Perales, Rheem and Camino Pablo Elementary Schools feed into JMIS. The majority of our students will attend Campolindo High School. Others will attend Miramonte High School and other local schools. Your resident high school is based on your home address and not your child's middle school.

In addition to providing a comprehensive core curriculum, JMIS offers numerous elective classes, a variety of school activities and events, and an after school sports program.

JMIS's dedicated teaching staff, comprised of 36 full-time and part-time teachers, is supported by a full time counselor, counselor paraprofessional, psychologist, speech and language pathologist, special education staff, library media specialist, writing aides, two administrative assistants, a custodial and two administrators, an incredibly supportive Parent Teacher Association, and the Moraga Education Foundation.

IMPORTANT DATES

Hello Incoming 6th Grade JM Parents,

Welcome to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. **We are hosting New/Incoming 6th Gr. Parent Orientation meeting Wednesday, March 8th from 6 to 7 PM in the JMIS library and for those who can not come to the in-person meeting - Thursday, March 9th from 6 to 7 PM via Zoom.** No need to RSVP for the meeting. The meeting will last approximately one hour.

We will talk about everything you always wanted to know about JMIS and more! Don't miss this opportunity to talk to Mike Plant, JM's Principal, Aaron Jorgensen, JM's Assistant Principal, Sandra Wasicek, PTA President, Gaby Alvarez, JM Counselor, and Core and Math JM teacher representatives.

In addition, please find important dates listed below for you to add to your calendars.

Important Upcoming Dates:

March 8:	New/Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation -IN PERSON - JMIS Library - 6 to 7PM
March 9:	New/Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation - ZOOM MEETING - 6 to 7PM - See Parent Square message
March 8 - 13:	Online 6th Grade Elective Course Request Registration Window - Instructions to follow on March 8th
March 13-16:	JM Book Fair - JMIS library- see JMIS website calendar for details
March 15:	Special Education Parent Meeting, Incoming 6th Grade, 6:00 to 6:20 PM - Rm 1
March 15:	Open House 6:30 to 7:30PM - All welcome!
April 21:	Incoming 5th Grade Visit 8:45AM to 10:00AM (students only)
August 9:	Student Class Schedules available online only (hard copies not available)
August 14:	WEB Day for Incoming 6th Graders 8:30AM to 12:00PM New 7th/8th Graders 11AM to 12PM
August 14:	Jaguar Day - 12:00PM to 2:00 PM
August 15:	First Day of School 8:30 AM

Mike Plant, Principal
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School

Additionally, please see the "Welcome" from the PTA. This includes some opportunities for students and families to get to know JM and the Jags community before the summer break.

We are Jaguars

We are Jaguars

Somos jaguares

我们是美洲虎

Siamo jaguari


Wir sind Jaguars

Nous sommes des jaguars

私たちはジャガーです

우리는 제규어

Welcome to JM 5th graders!



Dear 5th grade families,


Soon your student will graduate from 5th grade and become a Jaguar! The events below are great opportunities for students and families to get to know JM and the Jags community before the summer break. Save the dates!

- **Science Fair, 03/07 at 7pm:** Join us and have fun at the Science Fair! Pizza, snacks and drinks will be available to purchase.*
- **Open House, 03/15 at 5:30pm:** Come visit classrooms, make sure to stop by in the library to buy a new favorite book at our well curated book fair and marvel at the artwork of our students for the 46th Creative Art and Writing Contest! At 5:30 we will serve pre-ordered dinner* for families. Official Open House starts at 6:30pm! Pre-order with QR code below!
- **Welcome incoming 6th grade families, 03/30 at 5:30pm:** All students are invited to a free movie night at JM. Pre-ordered pizza and snacks will be available. Adults are invited to mingle and enjoy pre-ordered dinner.* Stay tuned for more details!
- **Adult Social at Canyon Club Brewery, 04/25 at 4:30pm:** Join us for a drink or some social time at the Brewery! Event starts early so that JM staff can join us on their way home. 10% of all proceeds will be donated to our PTA!
- **Spring Fling, 05/04 at 5pm:** Help celebrate the last weeks of school with fun games, food and drinks!

We can't wait to welcome you on campus and please come say "hi!" In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out at president@impta.org!

Kind regards and Go Jags!

Sandra Wasicek & Amy Chen Yee
PTA President New Family & Membership Liaison

*Food is sold as a fundraiser for our PTA. Find out more details on 


Ми - Ягуари

Мы Ягуары


Chúng tôi là báo đốm


ما جگوار هستيم


Welcome video by
Principal Mike Plant



Pre-order
Dinner for 03/15



Follow us on 



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will my 5th Grader Visit JM this year? **A:** All Moraga School District fifth graders will walk to JM or board buses for the JM field trip. Members of JM's Leadership class will lead the fifth graders on a tour of the campus.

Q: Are there any transition programs for incoming 6th graders? **A:** WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) Day is a middle school transition program that welcomes 6th graders and helps them with their transition from 5th grade to 6th grade. WEB is an acronym for Where Everybody Belongs and this program is built on the belief that students want to help other students succeed. WEB trainers work with members of the 8th grade class to become WEB leaders. These leaders are positive role models and teachers who guide 6th graders to discover what it takes to be successful in middle school. The WEB program kicks off with a fun and energetic orientation to build excitement and instill pride in our new students. It allows our 6th graders to begin developing relationships with other students as well as learn strategies that will contribute to their middle school success. After orientation, WEB provides a variety of follow-up activities throughout the year. WEB's goal is to provide a structure in which students make real connections with each other. Through this program, funded by the JMIS PTA, students learn that people at school care about them and their success. Our counseling department, along with JM student representatives, will also visit all 5th grade classrooms this spring to make a short presentation and to answer questions from 5th grade students.

Q: Do 6th grade students select any of their classes? **A:** Yes, in most cases. This guide includes information about choices. Elective Course Selection is online. Parents will receive instructions via email when it is time to enroll. Elective options include Exploratory Wheel, concert string orchestra, concert band, chorus, beginning guitar, the learning center, Math Support, ELL (English Language Learner) and the Skills for Success class. Students not choosing one of the aforementioned electives will be enrolled in the exploratory wheel. The 6th grade exploratory wheel is designed to give students an introduction to some of the other exciting electives that JM has to offer. Students rotate through these elective classes (which may include: art, computers, foods and earth stewardship).

Q: What's a typical school day like at JM? **A:** Your child arrives at school by bus, bike, foot or carpool before the first (warning) bell rings at **8:25 AM**. The first class begins at 8:30 AM. We have block scheduling. Three periods are devoted to CORE class (English/Social Studies) with one teacher. The rest of the day will be spent changing classrooms and teachers for Math, Science, PE and the elective class until the dismissal bell. There is a four-minute passing period between classes, a longer morning break (referred to as snack recess in elementary school, but at JM it is referred to as brunch!) and lunch.

Q: May I request a teacher? **A:** We understand that parents hear a lot of differing talk about particular teachers, and desire the best education for their children. However, experience has shown that what works well for one student may not offer the best situation for another student. Moreover, scheduling students with several different teachers is a complex task involving many variables. If you feel your child has exceptional needs that school administrators should consider, please submit a written explanation of these needs to school administrators. Do not list teachers by name, but rather explain the particular learning styles of your child. Parent requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

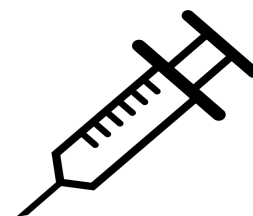
Q: When is the Open House and What is the Spring Fling? **A:** Parents and students are welcome to visit classrooms during Open House, **March 15th - 6:30PM**. This is a great opportunity for first-time families to get acquainted with the JM campus and get a glimpse of what to expect in middle school! Also, come have fun at the Spring Fling, **May 4th at 5PM** where you can enjoy dinner (available for purchase), as well as music, games, face painting, and a cake walk!

Q: Do I get a locker for books? **A:** No. 6th grade students are not assigned lockers, except in PE class. Backpacks are the most common means for transporting papers and binders from class to class. A set of classroom textbooks will be sent home to students so they do not need to transport books to and from school. 7th & 8th grade students will have a lockers. They should bring 2 locks with them on the 1st day of school.

Q: What's the deal with PE clothes? **A:** Spiffy PE uniforms (shorts & shirt) can be purchased the 1st week of the school year. You'll get more information from your child's PE teacher on how to pay online. Your child will also need a combination lock or key lock for his/her PE locker. (Scholarships are available.)

Q: What about vaccinations for incoming 6th graders?

A: **All** incoming sixth graders must be vaccinated against Hepatitis B. It takes more than seven months to get through the series of shots. Your child must also have the **Tdap** booster and **2 doses of chickenpox vaccine** prior to entering 7th grade. You are encouraged to check with your child's pediatrician!



Q: What is School Loop? **A:** School Loop is an online program which shows your child's progress, missing assignments, school news, and even allows your child to retrieve worksheets and send electronic homework. Students will sign up with their CORE teacher on the first day of school. After your child has created their account, parents can [register](#). Once enrolled, you will receive a daily email listing grades and homework.

Q: When does my child receive his or her class schedule? A: Class schedules for all students will be available online in August through your [Aeries parent portal](#) (different from School Loop). This is the same parent portal you've been using at your elementary schools. Do **NOT** create a new portal. You **MUST** have your child's permanent student ID number and verification code to access the information. Brand new students to the district will receive a letter with this information. This is the same portal you will use to choose your child's elective course requests. Students are encouraged to walk through their schedule (room locations) to get a sense of where all their classes are prior to the first day of school.

Q: What?! No recess?! A: No, no, no, we don't say "recess"! We say "passing period"! The four minute passing break is used to get to the next class. There is a Brunch and Lunch Break, during which time sack lunches or hot lunches are consumed. There is time for basketball or other games, or just "hanging out".

Q: What do I do if my child is sick, will be late or needs to leave early? A: Email (jmattend@moraga.k12.ca.us) or call (925-376-7206, Option 1) the attendance line by 9am. We are **REQUIRED** to hear from a parent anytime your child is not at school. You must come to the office to sign out your child anytime they are leaving school early, unless we receive an email with other instructions.

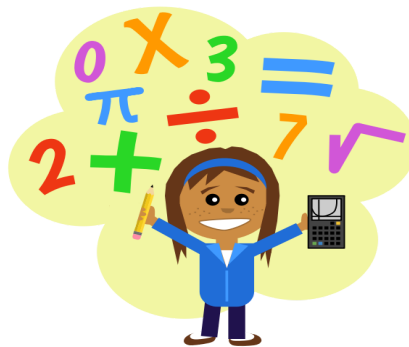
Q: Do you have a Hot Lunch Program? A: The Moraga School District offers the [California Universal Lunch Program](#) which includes both free Brunch and Lunch

Q: Do you have after school sports? A: Yes! [After School Sports](#) was created to give students the chance to participate in sports. The program is managed by LMYA. All questions should be directed to Hillary Johnston at hillarylmya@gmail.com.

Q: How do I sign up for the bus program? A: Contact [Lamorinda School Bus](#) for general information, annual bus passes and directions on how to register.

Q: How do I get more answers? A: Attend the Parent Orientation and visit our website (<http://jm.moraga.k12.ca.us>) or call us at 376-7206.





6th Grade Math Information

Joaquin Moraga offers two levels of math courses at each grade level. Incoming 6th grade students will be evaluated on three criteria to determine their placement in our courses. The three criteria include a performance task exam, an exam of fifth grade standards, and a score based on their habits of mind, which includes fifth grade test performance, homework completion, and the ability to persevere on mathematical tasks. All of these assessments will be given in their current classroom before the end of the school year. If you are a new student to the district, your child will take a Math Placement test during registration and will be placed based on their score.

The Common Core 6th grade course will cover all 6th grade standards as set by California. The Accelerated Common Core 6/7A course will cover all 6th grade standards and half of the 7th grade standards as set by California. Students will be notified of their placement in May. If a parent or student is not satisfied with their placement, the student will be allowed to retake either or both of the placement exams before the beginning of the school year. If the student scores sufficiently on the rubric with the challenge exams, they will be placed in the accelerated course.

Traditionally, students in CC 6 will take CC 7 in 7th grade, CC 8 in 8th grade and Algebra in ninth grade. This is the sequence laid out by the Common Core standards. The majority of 6th grade students at JM will be on this path. There is also an option for students in CC 6 to gain entrance into CC 7/8A depending on their performance in 6th grade. This course would lead to Algebra in the 8th grade. Students in CC 6/7A will take CC 7B/8 in 7th grade, Algebra in 8th grade and Geometry in ninth grade.

Please see the [JM Math Page](#) for more information.

Thank you for supporting our classrooms



Moraga Education Foundation (MEF)

Every year, MEF's mission is to raise funds to preserve and enhance educational opportunities for all students attending Moraga public schools, including Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM), through a broad-based community effort.

MEF funding impacts every JM student, every day. These funds support a wide variety of programs and staff at JM including:

- Elective Class Sections
- Art Teacher
- Counselor & Student Support Services
- Librarian
- Music, Choir and Band Teacher
- STEAM Electives' Materials & Equipment
- Technology & Upgrades
- Writing Aides

Please give generously to help maintain the depth and breadth of programs and services in our schools. To make a donation, which can be designated directly to JM, or for more information, you can visit MEF at moragaeducation.org.

Thank you for supporting every JM student, every day.

Bell & Daily Class Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st 8:30 - 9:50	2nd 8:30 - 9:50	1st 8:30 - 9:15	1st 8:30 - 9:50	2nd 8:30 - 9:50
Brunch 9:50 - 10:00	Brunch 9:50-10:00	2nd 9:20 - 10:05	Brunch 9:50 - 10:00	Brunch 9:50-10:00
3rd 10:05 - 11:25	4th 10:05 - 11:25	3rd 10:10 - 10:55	3rd 10:05 - 11:25	4th 10:05 - 11:25
5th 11:30 - 12:50	Academy 11:30 - 12:15	Brunch 10:55 - 11:05	5th 11:30 - 12:50	Academy 11:30 - 12:15
Lunch 12:50 - 1:30	Lunch 12:15 - 12:50	4th 11:10 - 11:55	Lunch 12:50 - 1:30	Lunch 12:15 - 12:50
7th 1:35 - 2:55	6th 12:55 - 2:15	5th 12:00 - 12:45	7th 1:35 - 2:55	6th 12:55 - 2:15
Z period 2:59 - 3:49	ALL STUDENTS dismissed at 2:15 No Z period	Lunch 12:45 - 1:20	Z period 2:59 - 3:49	ALL STUDENTS except Z period dismissed at 2:15
		6th 1:25 - 2:10		Z Period 2:19 - 3:09
		7th 2:15 - 3:00		
	Teacher Collaboration 2:15 - 3:05	Z Period 3:04 - 3:54		Teacher Collaboration/Prep 2:15 - 3:05

On Minimum Days: All students arrive at 8:30 am

Most students dismiss at 12:20 pm, except for "Z" Period students who dismiss at 12:52 pm.

**Z PERIOD IS FOR 7TH GRADERS ONLY WHO CHOOSE TO TAKE AN
ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE.**



Moraga School District Attendance Calendar | 2023-2024

First Day of School
August 15, 2023

Last Day of School
May 31, 2024

Student Days 180
Teacher Days 186

Board Adopted:

Key:

- Parent Portal/Registration Opens
- Classified PD/Teacher Workday
- New Teacher Workday
- Optional PD
- Professional Development
- First/Last Day of School
- BTS/Open House
- Non School Days
- Early/Late Elementary
- Conf. – TK-5th
- Minimum Days
- Emergency Make-up Days

1/12/23v4

JULY 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 4th of July (12-month employees only)

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1-5 New Year's Day
Winter Break
6 Staff Development
Non-Student Day
12 TK/K Reg. Portal Opens
15 Martin Luther King Holiday

Student Days=16
Teacher Days=17

AUGUST 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

6 Parent Portal Opens
7 New Teacher WD
8-9 Optional PD
10-11 Teacher PD
14 Teacher WD/Classified PD
15 First Day of School
17 6th-8th Back-to-School Night
22 TK-5th Back-to-School Night
TK-5th Min Day Only
Student Days=13
Teacher Days=16

FEBRUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

16 & 19 Presidents Day Holiday
23 TK-5th End of 2nd Trimester
29 6th-8th Open House Night

Student Days=19
Teacher Days=19

SEPTEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

4 Labor Day Holiday
5 Early/Late Begins
TK-2nd
22 K-5th Progress Report

Student Days=20
Teacher Days=20

MARCH 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

8 Elementary Report Cards Sent Home
15 Third Quarter Ends 6th-8th
18 6th-8th Min Day Only
18 Staff Development
Non-Student Day
29 TK-8th Min Day

Student Days=20
Teacher Days=21

OCTOBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

9 Staff Development
Non-Student Day
13 6th-8th Min Day Only
13 First Quarter Ends
6th-8th
23,24,26,27 Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences
TK-5th Min Days Only

Student Days=21
Teacher Days=22

APRIL 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-5 Spring Break
25 TK-5th Open House Night
TK-5th Min Day only

Student Days=17
Teacher Days=17

NOVEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

3 TK-5th End 1st Trimester
10 Veterans Day Holiday
17 Elementary Report Cards Sent Home
20-24 Thanksgiving Break

Student Days=16
Teacher Days=16

MAY 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

27 Memorial Day Holiday
31 Last Day of School TK-8th Min Day
Semester/Trimester End

Student Days=22
Teacher Days=22

DECEMBER 2023						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

22 TK-8th Min Day
22 First Semester Ends
6th-8th
25-29 Winter Break

Student Days=16
Teacher Days=16

JUNE 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

3,4,5 Optional Emergency Make-up Days
19 Juneteenth (12-month employees only)